

to interpose the foods (19) between said pair of electrode plates (13, 14) under the starting voltage.

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2. (Amended) A smoking method comprising the steps of:

introducing smoke into a chamber (71) containing therein foods (19) and electrode plates (73, 74) alternately arranged with each other at predetermined intervals, and

applying a DC voltage or AC voltage of 7 kV to 15 kV between said electrode plates (73, 74) or between the foods (19), under the starting voltage.

3. (Amended) A smoking method comprising the steps of:

introducing smoke into a chamber (91) containing therein first and second electrodes (111, 112) arranged at predetermined intervals, and electrically connecting first and second foods (101, 102) to said first and second electrodes (111, 112), respectively, and applying a DC voltage or AC voltage of 7 kV to 15 kV between said first and second electrodes (111, 112) under the starting voltage.

4. (Amended) A smoking method of any one of claims 1 through 3,

wherein the distance between the electrode plate and foods being adjacent to the electrode plate or between adjacent foods is 20 mm to 100 mm.

5. (Amended) A smoking apparatus comprising:

a chamber (11) having opposite ends thereof formed with an inlet (11a) and an exit (11b), an electrically insulative curtain (18) being attached thereto, respectively,

transporting means (12) moved into said chamber (11) from said inlet (11a) toward said exit (11b), and for transporting a plurality of foods (19) spaced at predetermined intervals, the foods (19) comprising farm products, marine products and livestock products or processed foods thereof,

a pair of electrode plates (13, 14) disposed within said chamber (11) at predetermined distances from the foods (19), respectively, along the longitudinal direction of said transporting means (12) so as to interpose the foods (19) between said pair of electrode plates (13, 14),

smoke generating means (16, 196) for generating smoke to be adhered to and infiltrated into the foods (19), and for introducing the smoke into said chamber (11), and

a high voltage generating circuit (17, 127, 147, 167) adapted to apply a DC voltage or AC voltage of 7 kV to 15 kV between said pair of electrode plates (13, 14) under the starting voltage, and to ground the foods (19).

- B1 6. (Amended) A smoking apparatus comprising:
supporting tools (71a) disposed within a chamber (71) for supporting a plurality of foods (19) at predetermined intervals, respectively,
a plurality of electrode plates (73, 74) disposed between said foods (19) supported by said supporting tools (71a), at predetermined distances from the foods (19), respectively.
smoke generating means (16, 196) for generating smoke to be adhered to and infiltrated into the foods (19), and for introducing the smoke into said chamber (71), and
a high voltage generating circuit (17, 127, 147, 167) for applying a DC voltage or AC voltage of 7 kV to 15 kV between said plurality of electrode plates (73, 74) or between the plurality of foods (19) under the starting voltage.
7. (Amended) A smoking apparatus comprising:
first electrodes (111) disposed within a chamber (91), and electrically connected to a plurality of first foods (101), respectively,
second electrodes (112) disposed within said chamber (91), each of second electrodes disposed between said first electrodes (111) at predetermined distances from said first electrodes (111) and electrically connected to a plurality of second foods (102),
smoke generating means (16, 196) for generating smoke to be adhered to and infiltrated into the first and second [works] foods (101, 102), and for introducing the smoke into said chamber (91), and
a high voltage generating circuit (17, 127, 147, 167) adapted to apply a DC voltage or AC voltage of 7 kV to 15 kV between said first and second electrodes (111, 112) under the starting voltage.
8. (Amended) A smoking apparatus of any one of claims 5 through 7, wherein the distance between the electrode plate and foods being adjacent to the electrode plate or between adjacent [works] foods is 20 mm to 100 mm.
9. (Amended) A smoking apparatus of any one of claims 5 through 7, wherein said high voltage generating circuit (17) includes a single transformer (17a) for boosting the commercial frequency voltage up to an AC voltage of 7 kV to 15 kV, wherein opposite ends of a secondary coil (17c) of said transformer (17a) are electrically connected to electrode plates (13, 14) or to foods (19), respectively, and wherein one end of an intermediate tapping electric wire (47) having the other end electrically connected to the foods (19) or to said electrode plates (13, 14) is electrically connected to an intermediate portion of said secondary coil (17c).

b 10. (Amended) A smoking apparatus of any one of claims 5 through 7, wherein said high voltage generating circuit (127) includes identical first and second transformers (121, 122) for boosting the commercial frequency voltage up to an AC voltage of 7 kV to 15 kV,

wherein one ends of secondary coils (121b, 122b) of said first and second transformers (121, 122) are electrically connected to electrode plates or to foods, respectively, and

wherein the other ends of said secondary coils (121b, 122b) of said first and second transformers (121, 122) are electrically connected to foods or to electrode plates, respectively, via common electric wire (123).

11. (Amended) A smoking apparatus of claim 9,

wherein said intermediate tapping electric wire (47) or said common electric wire (123) is provided with a diode (52a, 53a) for rectifying the electric current flowing through said intermediate tapping electric wire (47) or said common electric wire (123).

12. (Amended) A smoking apparatus of any one of claims 5 through 7,

wherein said smoke generating means (16) includes a hopper (22) for storing a smoking material (21),

a screw conveyor (23) for transporting the smoking material (21),

a burn heater (24) for incompletely burning the smoking material (21) transported by said screw conveyor (23), to thereby generate smoke, and

a smoke inlet (26a) for introducing the smoke into said chamber (11).

14. (Amended) A smoking apparatus of any one of claims 5 through 7, further comprising:

smoke circulating means (77, 97) for circulating the smoke introduced into said chamber (71, 91),

wherein said smoke circulating means (77, 97) comprises:

a circulation duct (78, 98) having opposite ends communicated to an upper part and a lower part of said chamber (71, 91), respectively, and

a fan (99) disposed within said circulation duct (78, 98) for drawing the smoke at the upper level within said chamber (71, 91) into the upper end of said circulation duct (78, 98) and for discharging the smoke from the lower end of said circulation duct (78, 98) into said chamber (71, 91).

15. (Amended) A smoking apparatus of any one of claims 5 through 7,

B 1 wherein condiments are added into a liquid (57c) within a tank (57b) of a humidifier (57) for keeping the humidity within said chamber (11) constant.

16. (new) A smoking apparatus of claim 10,

wherein said intermediate tapping electric wire (47) or said common electric wire (123) is provided with a diode (52a, 53a) for rectifying the electric current flowing through said intermediate tapping electric wire (47) or said common electric wire (123).